



STATE OF WASHINGTON

COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Minutes
Burien Study Session
Burien Public Library
July 11, 2003

Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Mario Reyes, Becky Diaz, Edward Davila, Diana Avalos, Gabriel Banfi, Homero Tamez, Gabriel Portugal and Yvonne Lopez-Morton
Commissioners absent: Alice Castilleja-Lara and Leo Gaeta

Staff present: Antonio Ginatta and Vita Echeverria
Guest Speakers: Carol Jolly and David Cline

Meeting started at 3:20 pm.

Discussed election of Chair and Vice Chair. Antonio mentioned that Chair Gaeta had called him to pass a message on to the commissioners. The message was to hold off on the elections until he could be present to talk to the commissioners about some issues he had on his mind.

Commissioner Banfi proposed to set up a conference call to talk to Leo.

Commissioner Davila made a motion to vote on elections today.
Commissioner Portugal seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Banfi asked if a call could be placed to Leo at that moment. An attempt was made but Gabriel could not reach him on his cell phone.

The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Elections for both Chair & Vice Chair:
Commissioner Davila nominated Leo Gaeta for position of Chair.
Commissioners voted unanimously for Leo as Chair.

Commissioner Diaz nominated Gabriel Banfi for position of Vice Chair.
Commissioner Banfi declined the nomination due to work responsibilities. .

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Commissioner Banfi nominated Yvonne Lopez-Morton.
Commissioner Lopez-Morton accepted.

Commissioners voted on unanimously for Yvonne as Vice Chair.

Commissioners decided that Commissioner Banfi would continue to facilitate the public meeting on Saturday. And after that it could be the new Chair or Vice Chair.

Guest Speakers:

Carol Jolly, Deputy Director and now the Acting Director with the Constituent Outreach Agency of the Governor's Policy Office.

Carol stated that Nancy Biery is the new director of External Affairs and wants to meet with all the executive directors of the minority commissions. Carol and Nancy's goal is to try to strengthen the relationships between the Governor's office and the minority commissions.

The commissions need to decide two things:

1. Decide whether the Chair & Executive Director should be the main point of contact.
2. Whether the commissioners are clear about their roles as commissioners. It is very important that the staff and commissioners know what their roles are and to feel comfortable with them.

Commissioner Davila mentioned that the Commissioner orientation that he attended at the beginning of his term was very valuable. He hopes that it will continue to be available.

David Cline, Senior Management Analyst with the City of Burien: He announced that the city had bought 10 acres of land to build a town square. He said that the Hispanic population has grown from 3% to 11%, and that because of the growth he would like to see partnerships start to happen in the community. The city is going to be taking a look at getting more bilingual personnel into their city offices.

Commissioners Banfi, Diaz and Avalos gave him examples of what their communities have done to work together towards the same purpose.

Vita Echeverria spoke about how the Shelton community had started to work together after the Commission had a visited the area.

Commissioner Davila stated that it was very important for the city offices to start building relationships with other community groups.

Commissioner Portugal mentioned that the Chief of Police could write a grant for Community Oriented Policing.

Commissioner Davila gave a briefing about what would take place at the public meeting.

Education committee

Commissioner Avalos discussed the committee's conference call:

1. **Hispanic youth plan document:** This document was developed by OSPI and serves as a framework to provide information much like a resource manual. It works in partnership with the EALRs (Essential Academic Learning Requirements). Only a few people in the state know that the document exists. The committee would like to see the document resurrected. The concern right now is that Terri Bergeson is not backing it up. The original version of the document was dated 1983. Three years ago, advocates resurrected the document so that it could get revised. The committee will be in contact with Ricardo Sanchez from LEAP. After the committee completes the task they will ask for CHA's endorsement.
2. **Minority Teacher Act:** Ten to fifteen years ago, Oregon passed legislation to promote a proportional number of educational professionals according to race and ethnicity. The legislation is called the Minority Teacher Act. Washington doesn't have something like this in place. Antonio suggested that I-200 could be a barrier to the promotion of this legislation in WA. Antonio will contact the Attorney General's office to find out their opinion.
3. **Fund allocation between Migrant and Title 1:** The committee recommends looking into the way state funds are allocated and find out if bilingual education funds will be moved from Migrant dollars to Title 1 funds. The committee will find out from Dr. Richard Gomez what his opinion is on the matter.

Commissioner Portugal made a motion to write a letter to Dr. Richard Gomez asking for his opinion on the matter of fund allocation between Migrant and Title 1.

Commissioner Lopez-Morton seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Antonio and Commissioner Avalos will draft the letter to Dr. Richard Gomez.

Emergent Issues Committee

Antonio Ginatta spoke on behalf of the committee.

He mentioned a list of tasks that needed to be prioritized and in order to set specific goals on which to work.

1. Mattawa child care providers – Audit reports states that improper payments were made to undocumented providers of child care in Mattawa.

2. Farmworker Housing Development – Is there a need to get more funds?
3. Basic Health – Limiting slots to 100,000 insured.
4. Dental coverage for undocumented children and recently arrived immigrants.
5. Racial Profiling - Biased policing.
6. Economic Development / Small business development
7. Prohibiting discrimination based on genetic information
8. Discrimination at DSHS
9. Matricula Consular support
10. Police “Don’t Ask immigration status” efforts (9 & 10 are local issues)
11. Unemployment reform
12. Licensing issue: The treatment of Hispanic community members at local DMV offices.
13. Krispy Kreme: Discrimination and sexual harassment law suit against staff at Krispy Kreme.

The three core issues that were identified as priorities were:

- Basic Health reform;
- preventing biased policing; and
- promoting economic development.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.